

APPENDIX IV

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EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN S.O.E. & S.I.S.

This is compiled by AN/P - I have myself read the relevant files and entirely agree.

1. The Special Section of S.O.E. is concerned with S.O.E.'s Security in the Field and with the liaison with Section V of S.I.S. i.e., the Centre-Spyionage Section of S.I.S.
- The Country Sections referred to below in such organisation are the operating Sections responsible for the conduct of the secret organisations in the Field.
2. On the 25th. June 1945, a meeting took place between Captain Seymour, of the Dutch Country Section of S.I.S. Major Bingham, of the Dutch Country Section of S.O.E., and Mr. Harvey, then attached to the Special Section of S.O.E. At that meeting, Captain Seymour was understood to suggest that BILL (the pseudonym for an S.O.E. Agent in Holland) was under control or seriously compromised, this being mainly based upon messages received through the O.R. wireless transmitter in Holland. The Dutch Country Section of S.O.E. said they would be glad to have information and asked to be assured that the O.R. wireless transmitter was reliable. It was suggested that a full exchange of information should take place between the Special Section of S.O.E. on the one hand and Section V of S.I.S. on the other.
3. As no progress was apparently being made, on the 16th. July 1945, Commander Senter, R.I.V.R., the Director in charge of the S.O.E. Special Section, wrote to Lieut-Colonel Cowgill of Section V, narrating the above arrangement and asking how the matter stood. On the 21st. July 1945, Commander Senter handed to [] of S.I.S., a list of some 140 names connected with the S.O.E. Dutch Organisation, for traces.
4. Captain Wells, of the Dutch Section of S.O.E., on the 24th. July 1945, spoke to Captain Seymour, of the Dutch Section of S.I.S. and asked how the investigation stood. Captain Seymour replied that he had put the matter to his Chief, who had ruled that it was 'inadvisable' to conduct the joint investigation proposed.
5. On the 29th. July 1945, Commander Senter wrote to [] of Section V, reciting the previous arrangements, asking how the matter stood and emphasizing S.O.E.'s interest.
6. On the 30th. July 1945, [] replied as to some of the traces.
7. On the 12th. August 1945, Section V of S.I.S. furnished some further traces.
8. On the 18th. August 1945, as no progress appeared to be being made towards proceeding with the arrangement discussed on the 25th. June, Air Commodore Boyle wrote to V.O.S.A., asking him to look into the matter and emphasizing that, in view of the suggestion that the S.O.E. Dutch organisation was compromised, S.O.E. would naturally like to have

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any available information. On the 21st. August 1945, V.O.E. replied that this was the first that he had heard of it, saying that he was taking it up with DD/Mavy, S.I.E., and suggesting that Captain Seymour must either substantiate his statement with some written date or withdraw. (Up to that point, there had been no reply to S.O.E.'s letters above referred to.)

Following on this, a meeting took place on the 21st. August 1945, between Air Commodore Boyle, DD/Mavy, S.I.E. (Colonel Cordoux), and Major Ringham, of the S.O.E. Country Section. This was followed by a letter on the 1st. September from Colonel Cordoux to Air Commodore Boyle, in which Colonel Cordoux disavowed any allegation against the S.O.E. main agent, BILL, but agreed that Section V should make an investigation concerning the security of the O.D. organisation. Air Commodore Boyle replied on the 6th. September. Colonel Cordoux wrote a further letter on the 10th. September, saying that Section V had been put on to making the enquiries promised and that Section V would give the Special Section of S.O.E. a full and considered opinion concerning the security of the O.D. organisation. (It is material to note that, since Colonel Cordoux made it clear that S.I.E. had no adverse information about the agent BILL, the original proposal of an exchange of notes - S.O.E.'s to deal with BILL - fell to the ground.)

In the meantime, correspondence had continued between the Special Section of S.O.E. and Section V of S.I.E. and on the 27th. August 1945, Section V sent certain further traces on the lists that S.O.E. had produced and asked for specific information as to one Karel VAN DONK.

On the 4th. October, [redacted] of Section V, wrote to Commander Senter, stating Section V's conclusions as to the security of the O.D. The full report is as follows:-

- (a) The GHAR Organisation is not in our opinion penetrated by the enemy.
- (b) In such most secret material as we have received there is no trace of enemy penetration.
- (c) Interrogation of captured Dutchmen in the employ of the Abwehr has also not revealed any major penetration by the enemy.

On the 7th. October 1945, the Special Section of S.O.E. replied about Karel VAN DONK. On or about the 20th. October Major Warden, of the Special Section of S.O.E., called upon [redacted] to discuss the Dutch case. On that occasion, [redacted] produced a report dealing with the security of the O.D. but he said that the S.I.E. Country Section refused to allow the S.O.E. Special Section to have this report and, under this ban, Major Warden was invited to read it then and there, which he did. It is not necessary to say more in the circumstances than that, to the best of Major Warden's recollection, this report set out reasons for saying that the O.D. organisation had not been penetrated - at least in any important respect. The report did not deal with any question of the insecurity of S.O.E. in Holland.

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Major Warden had with him on that occasion a note prepared by S.O.E. headed "The O.D. Wireless Set" and Major Warden's recollection is that he gave that to [redacted] to read when he was reading the Section V document. This impression, so far as S.O.E. was concerned, appeared to be corroborated by the fact that, on the 1st. November, the S.O.E. Special Section sent a letter to Section V, enclosing a long note on another aspect of the Dutch situation (via the SERGHANT case); this goes on to say 'as this ties up with the O.D. inquiry, perhaps you would be good enough to let Major Warden know when you have read it, so that we could then discuss the O.D. connection with you personally.'

10. If the position is stated by [redacted] to be that he has not seen the S.O.E. note, then S.O.E. would not for a moment seek to dispute the recollection of this Officer. The matter is essentially one of recollection, for there is admittedly no documentary S.O.E. record of the communication of the S.O.E. note and, it is fair to add, no written comment by Section V on the material.
11. The note "The O.D. Wireless Set" is being sent to Section V. It is largely an appreciation by S.O.E. of the O.D. set up to the extent to which S.O.E. has that material.

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